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MALAYAN RICE IMPORTS DECLINE IN 1954

Rice imports into Malaya during 1954 fell to the lowest level in 7 years as the Government and trade reduced stocks in anticipation of increased world supplies and lower prices. Imports during the first half of the year were only 267 million pounds; or approximately 20 percent of average annual rice imports in recent years. Arrivals increased in the fourth quarter as stocks fell to a very low level, but even then they were less than normal.

Imports of rice into Singapore and the Federation of Malaya are expected to pick up in 1955; and may be close to 1,350 million pounds. This would be the largest in postwar years. From 1,100 million to 1,200 million pounds of imports will be required for consumption, and possibly 100 million to 200 million pounds to rebuild stocks.

A preliminary estimate of Malaya's rice crop of 1954-55 is 1,420 million pounds rough rice (900 million pounds milled); or a decline of 2 percent from the preceding year. Weather was unfavorable, and rice yields low. Although the estimate of rice acreage planted was around 885,000 acres, only 850,000 acres are reported as being harvested.

Average per capita consumption of rice from 1948 through 1954 is estimated at approximately 300 pounds. With a population in mid-1954 estimated at 7,100,000; this would put total consumption at 2,100 million pounds.

To supply this amount in addition to new-crop rice, imports of around 1,200 million pounds would be required in 1955 calendar year. Consumption has varied in recent years; when it has been affected by (1) rationing, which was abandoned in 1954 in all but a few areas, (2) changes in incomes of workers, which is greatly influenced by prices of tin and rubber, and (3) growth of population of over 3 percent per year.

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MALAYA: Rice imports, averages 1935-39 and 1946-50,
annual 1951-54

Country of origin	Average		1951	1952	1953	1954
	1935-39	1946-50				
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Burma.....	514	233	119	157	260	16
Indochina.....	72	20	117	79	88	16
Thailand.....	1,057	452	1,020	926	856	675
Brazil.....	0	19	0	0	0	0
Italy.....	0	4	25	0	0	0
Australia.....	0	18	0	0	0	0
Egypt.....	0	54	0	0	0	0
Other countries:	24	10	0	0	0	1
Total.....	1,667	810	1,281	1,162	1,204	708

Source: Malayan Statistics.

The Government has turned back most of the rice trade to private merchants, with a minimum of controls, though it plans to maintain a reserve stock of rice to meet any emergency. This stockpile will be rotated by requiring importers to buy 1 ton of rice from the stockpile for every 2 tons imported.

MALAYA: Supply and distribution of milled rice, 1954

	1,000 long tons	Million pounds
Stocks, January 1, 1954.....	1/ 350	1/ 780
Production.....	408	910
Imports.....	316	710
Total supply.....	<u>1,074</u>	<u>2,400</u>
Consumption.....	1/ 900	1/2,010
Exports.....	49	110
Stocks, December 31, 1954.....	1/ 125	1/ 280
Total distribution	<u>1,074</u>	<u>2,400</u>

1/ Tentative estimate.

Apparently private trade had little trouble reestablishing prewar contacts, and after a brief period of uncertainty the market is operating as normal. Wholesale prices remain the lowest in several years, but must be increased soon to reflect higher prices at sources of import supplies. This information is from a report by Glenn A. Ruggles, Agricultural Officer, American Consulate General, Singapore.

WORLD 1954-55 GRAIN EXPORTS
SLIGHTLY UNDER 1953-54 LEVEL

World 1954-55 (July-June) exports of grain and grain products, exclusive of rice, are tentatively estimated at 38,282,000 long tons. This compares with 39,435,000 tons in 1953-54 and with the prewar (1934-1938) average of 32,282,000 tons. The alltime record was 42,550,000 tons in 1951-52. The second highest was 40,600,000 tons in 1928-29.

Approximately 76 percent of the estimated 1954-55 exports originated in just 4 countries: The United States, Canada, Australia, and Argentina. These 4 countries have long been the world's leading export producers, and for that reason are usually referred to in the grain trade as the "Big Four." Shipments from the United States alone accounted for 30 percent of the total, compared with 24 percent a year earlier.

The balance of the world's 1954-55 grain exports represent wheat, wheat flour, rye, corn, oats, barley, and grain sorghums shipped from countries other than the Big Four. Included among these other sources were Russia, the countries of the Danube Basin, several Western European countries, French North Africa, the Union of South Africa, the Middle East, and several countries in South America and the Far East.

As usual, bread grains (wheat and rye) constituted the bulk of the movement, with a total amounting to 26,098,000 tons compared with 25,257,000 tons in 1953-54. World exports of coarse grains (corn, oats, barley, and grain sorghums) for the year are estimated at 12,184,000 tons against 14,178,000 tons a year earlier.

Outstanding developments in global movement of grain during 1954-55 included the following: (1) Increased wheat exports from the United States, Argentina, Australia, and France and reduced exports from Canada; (2) reduced corn exports from the United States and increased exports from Argentina; (3) reduced exports of oats from Canada and Argentina and increased exports from the United States; (4) reduced barley exports from Canada and Argentina and increased exports from the United States; and (5) increased exports of grain sorghums from the United States.

Details relative to world estimated export trade in grain and grain products during 1954-55 appear in the table on opposite page. Comparable data for the 3 preceding seasons are also shown. A report covering international trade in grain and grain products over a long period of years will be available soon upon request to the Foreign Agricultural Service.

ORIGIN OF WORLD EXPORTS OF GRAIN AND GRAIN PRODUCTS FOR SPECIFIED PERIODS
(July 1 - June 30 Marketing Season)

Period and Origin	Wheat	Rye	Corn	Oats	Barley	Grain	Total
	Long Tons	Long Tons	Long Tons	Long Tons	Long Tons	Long Tons	Long Tons
1951-52							
United States	12,855,240	114,688	2,107,606	65,779	665,186	1,807,196	17,615,695
Canada	9,165,927	162,345	4,772	1,090,745	1,279,752	---	11,703,541
Australia	2,655,840	---	5,867	243,487	269,612	47,332	3,222,138
Argentina	803,083	130,514	601,563	108,385	241,601	1/	1,885,146
All others 2/	3,074,028	373,058	1,854,862	358,105	2,180,153	283,386	8,123,592
Total	28,554,118	780,605	4,574,670	1,866,501	4,636,304	2,137,914	42,550,112
1952-53							
United States	8,678,782	7,990	3,151,743	58,715	794,001	283,514	12,974,745
Canada	10,321,676	252,843	14,614	1,122,288	2,579,980	---	14,291,401
Australia	2,663,561	---	21,178	239,066	496,569	53,072	3,473,446
Argentina	784,275	31,478	625,733	64,461	203,943	1/	1,709,890
All others 2/	3,995,296	420,116	636,587	219,270	2,550,715	229,195	8,051,179
Total	26,443,590	712,427	4,449,855	1,703,800	6,625,208	565,781	40,500,661
1953-54							
United States	5,890,763	186	2,776,930	49,195	398,293	208,588	9,323,955
Canada	7,621,871	444,339	36,588	1,224,524	2,276,339	---	11,603,661
Australia	1,901,668	---	13,556	73,563	601,904	50,865	2,641,556
Argentina	2,957,121	1,000,492	1,294,142	601,279	815,218	1/	6,668,252
All others 2/	5,170,944	269,996	1,027,366	238,477	2,253,441	237,296	9,197,520
Total	23,542,367	1,715,013	5,148,582	2,187,038	6,345,195	496,749	39,434,944
1954-55							
United States	7,232,000	75,000	2,050,000	257,000	900,000	800,000	11,314,000
Canada	6,830,000	213,000	10,000	398,000	1,800,000	---	9,251,000
Australia	2,411,000	---	6,000	36,000	43,000	40,000	2,536,000
Argentina	3,482,000	275,000	1,675,000	300,000	364,000	---	6,096,000
All others 2/	5,300,000	280,000	1,065,000	290,000	1,900,000	250,000	9,085,000
Total	25,255,000	843,000	4,806,000	1,281,000	5,007,000	1,090,000	38,282,000
Equiv. in thous. bu.:	942,850	33,720	192,240	89,670	233,645	43,600	1,535,725

1/ Not available.

2/ Figures on exports from countries other than the Big Four are incomplete. Actual export

returns are available in only a few instances. In all other cases, the totals were estimated on the basis of import returns from importing countries, on trade reports, and on information relative to trade agreements, barter deals and reported sales contracts.

PERUVIAN TOBACCO MONOPOLY ABOLISHED

Free production, processing, and trade in tobacco and tobacco products is now reestablished in Peru, with abolishment of the Peruvian Tobacco Monopoly--by Law 12347 of June 17. The Monopoly was established in 1904. Regulations for compliance with the new measure are to be issued later.

ITALIAN SEED CROP
PROSPECTS NORMAL

Recent dry weather in the seed producing areas of Italy has not been severe enough to jeopardize production, according to W. Raymond Ogg, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Rome. However, the harvest season is not expected to start for 2 or 3 weeks and weather can still be a major factor in the outcome.

Based on present prospects, production is likely to be slightly above that of 1954 for grasses and legume crops. Vegetable seed production prospects are for a normal crop.

BRAZIL INCREASES COCOA
BEAN EXPORT BONUS

According to Instruction No. 117 of the Brazilian Superintendency of Money and Credit, cocoa beans were moved from the second to the third exchange rate category effective June 25, 1955, the date of publication of the Instruction in Diario Oficial.

This action has the effect of increasing the export bonus (premium above the official rate of exchange of 18.36 cruzeiros per dollar) from 18.70 cruzeiros to 24.70 cruzeiros per United States dollar; or the equivalent in other currency, thus making the effective export rate for cocoa beans 43.06 cruzeiros as against 37.06 cruzeiros previously.

A recent Foreign Service Despatch indicates that this increase in the export bonus for cocoa beans resulted from pressure by cocoa exporters who declared that the normal cocoa trade had been injured by the earlier placement of cocoa paste and cake in the third exchange rate category and of cocoa butter in the fourth category, thereby diverting cocoa beans to domestic processors. Exporters apparently convinced the Government that the establishment of a higher bonus for the semi-manufactured items, which apparently resulted in an inferior product, was detrimental to the long-term interests of the cocoa trade.

NORWAY'S TOBACCO CONSUMPTION UP IN 1954

Tobacco consumption in Norway during 1954 was slightly above that for 1953. Increases of 5.7 percent in cigarettes and 3.5 percent in smoking tobacco were noted. Cigarette consumption, based on revenue stamps sold, rose from 1,254 million pieces in 1953 to 1,326 million in 1954. Smoking tobacco increased in volume from 5.7 million pounds in 1953 to 5.9 million last year. There was a 14 percent gain in the number of cigarette papers sold, indicating a larger proportion of smoking tobacco is being used for "roll-your-own" cigarettes.

The United States continued to be the principal source of Norway's tobacco imports in 1954. Imports from this country (based on the quantity of tobacco cleared from bond) amounted to 7.9 million pounds, or 86.5 percent of the total. In 1953, United States leaf accounted for 85.9 percent of total imports. Most of the remainder in both years consisted of oriental leaf from Turkey, and flue-cured from Southern Rhodesia and British East Africa.

TOBACCO INCLUDED IN GREEK TRADE AGREEMENT WITH POLAND; HUNGARY

The Greek Minister of Agriculture has reported that contracts have been signed between the Agricultural Export Congress (a quasi-governmental organization sponsored by the Agricultural Bank of Greece) and the Polish and Hungarian Governments. These contracts provide for the export on a barter basis of Greek agricultural commodities in exchange for industrial goods. Tobacco is included in the contracts as an item to be exported from Greece with the following value: Poland--in 1955, \$800,000 worth; and in 1956, \$1,200,000 worth; to Hungary, in 1955, \$1,500,000 worth.

LARGE TOBACCO CROP IN COLOMBIA

The 1955 tobacco harvest in Colombia is estimated at 65 million pounds, according to a report received from Quentin R. Bates, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Bogota. This is almost 16 percent above the final estimate of 56.2 million pounds harvested in 1954. The acreage harvested in 1955 is placed at 72,900 as compared with 63,000 acres in the previous year. Most of the expansion in acreage is believed to be due to an increase of about 15 percent in the farm price of leaf, which became effective in December 1954 as a result of efforts of the recently organized National Tobacco Institute. This Institute was formed for the purpose of improving the incomes of tobacco producers; assisting growers to become more efficient by helping them to construct necessary buildings; and teaching them modern methods of growing and handling their tobacco.

It is estimated that 52 million pounds, or four-fifths of the 1955 production, is native dark air-cured tobacco as compared with about 45 million pounds in 1954. This tobacco is used domestically for producing low-quality dark cigarettes as well as other tobacco products and also accounts for almost all the leaf exports from Colombia. The remaining 13 million pounds or 20 percent of the 1955 crop is cigar tobacco. About half this amount is estimated to be cigar-filler, with binder and wrapper leaf each accounting for about one-fourth of the total.

U. S. TOBACCO EXPORTS,
MAY 1955

United States exports of unmanufactured tobacco in May 1955 totaled 21.3 million pounds, valued at \$13.3 million, compared with total exports in May 1954 of 28.6 million pounds, valued at \$17.6 million. There were decreases in practically all types of tobacco with the exception of cigar wrapper and Green River.

United States: Exports of unmanufactured tobacco
May 1955 and January-May 1955

(Export Weight)

Type	May		Percent Change	January-May		Percent Change
	1954	1955		1954	1955	
	1,000	1,000		1,000	1,000	
	pounds	pounds		pounds	pounds	
Flue-cured.....	20,640	17,841	-13.6	97,705	101,621	+ 4.0
Burley.....	4,908	1,088	-77.8	12,959	13,553	+ 4.6
Dark-fired Ky-Tenn.	1,346	1,122	-16.6	6,881	8,704	+ 26.5
Virginia fire-cured	119	74	-37.8	1,314	1,187	- 9.7
Maryland.....	762	294	-61.4	2,822	2,788	- 1.2
Green River.....	-	232	-	835	1,715	+105.4
One Sucker.....	13	11	-15.4	290	1,641	+465.9
Cigar Wrapper.....	184	252	+36.9	1,086	1,477	+ 36.0
Cigar Binder.....	71	46	-35.2	588	413	- 29.8
Cigar Filler.....	8	-	-	155	5	- 96.8
Other.....	543	309	-43.1	2,673	3,494	+ 30.7
Total.....	28,594	21,269	-25.6	127,308	136,598	+ 7.3
Declared value						
million dollars...	17.6	13.3	-24.4	80.7	84.0	+ 4.1

Compiled in the Foreign Agricultural Service from records of the Bureau of the Census.

Exports of flue-cured tobacco were 17.8 million pounds in May 1955-- a decrease of about 14 percent from exports of 20.6 million pounds in May 1954. Exports of flue-cured tobacco to the United Kingdom totaled 488,000 pounds in May 1955 compared with 794,000 pounds in May 1954. Exports of flue-cured tobacco to West Germany increased about 28 percent in May 1955, (6.8 Million pounds) compared with 5.3 million pounds for the same month last year. There were increased shipments of flue-cured tobacco to Denmark, the Netherlands, Thailand, Australia, and New Zealand.

United States: Exports of tobacco products
May 1955 with comparisons

Product	May		Percent Change	January-May		Percent Change
	1954	1955		1954	1955	
Cigars and Cheroots (1,000 pieces)	854	373	-56.3	3,868	2,170	-43.9
Cigarettes (Million pieces)	1,339	1,169	-12.7	6,463	6,176	- 4.4
Chewing Tobacco & Snuff (1,000 pounds)	150	157	+ 4.7	678	560	-17.4
Smoking Tobacco in packages (1,000 pounds)	70	45	-35.7	251	232	- 7.6
Smoking Tobacco in bulk (1,000 pounds)	379	395	+ 4.2	1,581	2,409	+52.4
Declared Value (Million Dollars)	5.5	4.8	-12.7	25.8	25.8	-

Compiled in the Foreign Agricultural Service from records of the Bureau of the Census.

Exports of unmanufactured tobacco for the January-May 1955 period totaled 136.6 million pounds--an increase of 7 percent over the 127.3 million pounds shipped abroad during the same period last year. Exports of flue-cured tobacco for the first 5 months of 1955 totaled 101.6 million pounds, an increase of 4 percent over the 97.7 million pounds exported during the January-May 1954 period. There were increases in exports of most other types of tobacco with the exception of Virginia fire-cured, Maryland, Cigar binder, and Cigar filler.

Exports of tobacco products, valued at \$4.8 million, were about 13 percent lower in May 1955 than for the same month last year. There were decreases in exports of all kinds of products with the exception of chewing tobacco and snuff and smoking tobacco in bulk.

Export valuation of tobacco products, at \$25.8 million; was the same for the January-May 1954 and 1955 period. There were decreases in exports of all products for this period with the exception of smoking tobacco in bulk.

AUSTRALIA SEEKS MARKETS FOR NONFAT DRY MILK IN INDIA AND S.E. ASIA

An Australian mission study of potential markets for nonfat dry milk solids in India and possibly other countries of Southeast Asia has been requested of the Commonwealth Government by the Victorian Society of Dairy Technology of Australia. The request followed an address in which Dr. D. N. Khurody, Milk Commissioner for Bombay, India, told members of the Society that Bombay uses almost 7 million pounds of nonfat dry milk solids annually, which is purchased by bid. James Boulware, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Canberra, states that Australia reportedly offered to provide more than 2.6 million tons of nonfat dry milk solids at about 8.5 cents a pound, C. I. F. Bombay.

An article on the India dried milk market will appear in the August issue of Foreign Agriculture.

DROUGHT AFFECTS PANAMA MILK PRODUCTION

The American Embassy reports from Panama that continued dry conditions in some areas of Panama have retarded milk production so that rationing, apparently voluntary, of the product was noted.

Milk production in Panama provides only about 80 pounds of milk per person annually. Import statistics from Panama during 1954 are not available for the entire year, but, on the basis of 1953, Panama imports 1.5 million pounds of butter, 0.7 million pounds of cheese and 1.2 million pounds of canned milk annually.

FRENCH FIRM INCREASES CHEESE SALES THROUGH PACKAGING

A successful sales experiment through packaging the famous French Cantal Cheese is announced by the French National Productivity Center, under its Marketing and Distribution Program.

Marketing of Cantal cheese, a hard cheese traditionally processed into large disks of from 45 to 110 pounds, has been difficult, as once the cheese is cut it is susceptible to impairment of flavor, texture, and color unless properly stored and refrigerated. Most French retail cheese outlets do not have adequate refrigeration equipment. Therefore, sales of Cantal cheese have not been up to production potentials.

Numerous experiments were made in the past to produce the cheese in smaller disks, but most of these were unsuccessful from a quality standpoint. Under the Marketing and Distribution Program the firm of Gregoire and Sons, an important cheese processing and distributing firm at Aurillac in the heart of the famous Cantal cheese region in south-central France, experimented with precutting the cheese and packaging it in individual half-pound wedges. Monthly sales of the firm have doubled since October 1954 and modern packaging equipment and a new building to house it have been added to the firm's properties. Furthermore, the firm has opened up distribution outlets in areas previously not served. Other agencies are following Gregoire's lead and are bringing a considerable change in the economic situation in the French Cantal cheese industry.

MILK OUTPUT RISING IN U.K.

Preliminary estimates of milk production in the United Kingdom during May and June indicate that production is rising and is reaching the levels of a year previous for the first time since last September. The lower level of output during the past months reflects a disappointing 1954 harvest, an unusually hard winter, and a cold, backward spring; the estimated winter loss, according to a report from Robert Gastineau, Assistant Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, London, was placed at more than 400 million gallons.

Pastures are making slow growth and anticipated output for July 1955 of more than 1.8 billion pounds will be about 1 percent above July 1954. Mr. Thomas Peacock, Chairman of the Milk Marketing Board, states that the Production Division of the Board expects milk supplies will continue to increase as a result of better management practices, herd improvement, and the maintenance of cow numbers.

SWEDISH MILK PRODUCTION DECLINES

The decline in milk production in Sweden during 1954 has carried over into the first quarter of 1955 with production data showing only 95 percent of the first quarter of the year previous; according to a report from the American Embassy at Stockholm. There is a declining interest in milk production because of the milk/meat price ratio which has apparently not been offset by the lowered milk production potential caused by unusually cold weather and retarded pasture conditions.

It is expected that lowered manufactured rates in dairy products will cut exports of butter during at least the first half of 1955, but supplies will be sufficient for domestic needs and may permit some increase in present low stocks of butter. (Cont'd. next page.)

Sweden has increased the excise on cheese imports. The charge on hard rennet cheese has been increased from 7.0 cents to 7.9 cents a pound, while that on dessert cheese has been upped from 3.5 to 4.4 cents a pound.

BRITISH LIBERALIZE QUOTA REGULATIONS ON CHEESE IMPORTS FROM NORTH AMERICA

Under Notice to Importers No. 737, dated July 1, 1955, the British Board of Trade has undertaken some liberalization of the 1955/56 cheese quota imports from North America. (See Foreign Crops and Markets, June 21, 1954.) The liberal amendments resulted from the fact that imports under quota have been small in comparison with the value of import licenses issued, based on average imports during 1937-1938. The purpose of the amendments is to favor importers who have actively engaged in cheese trading with American and Canadian suppliers.

Importers who last year used at least 90 percent of their licenses will be allowed, on application, to a value of 150 percent of their 1954/55 quotas. Importers who have used more than 50 percent, but less than 90 percent of their 1954/55 quotas will be allowed a value of 100 percent of the previous year's quotas. If enough of the total quota quantity remains, importers who used their licenses to less than 50 percent of their quotas will be allowed a maximum of half of their 1954/55 quotas. Licenses will be valid for 6 months from date of issue or to March 31, 1956; whichever is the earlier.

Further provisions cover subsequent issuances of licenses. Importers who have used 90 percent or more of their quotas by December 31, 1955, may apply for further licenses on the unused balance of the general quota; the extent of these licenses will depend on their importations during the July-December 1955 period.

AUSTRALIA MAKES DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS FOR BEEF

In early May the Australian Government agreed to finance payments by the Meat Board amounting to about 1.4 cents per pound ($1\frac{1}{2}$ pence) for beef moving into storage during May-July for shipment to the United Kingdom; reports James H. Boulware, Agricultural attache, American Embassy, Canberra. This payment is to be recouped by the National Treasury when the anticipated deficiency payment based on the United Kingdom meat agreement is received.

On June 23 the Minister of Commerce and Agriculture announced that the payment on chilled and frozen first and second quality heifer, steer, and cow beef delivered into storage and exported to the United Kingdom would be extended to September 3, 1955.

The government and the Meat Board are attempting to estimate as closely as possible the deficiency payment that the United Kingdom will make at the end of the 1954-55 meat marketing year (September 30) as set up under the agreement. Every effort is being made to see that as much as possible of this payment goes to cattle producers and that the advance disbursements will not exceed the amount of the anticipated payment.

INDIAN CATTLE GO TO PHILIPPINES

The Government of India has agreed to ship cows and buffaloes to the Philippines, to be distributed to farmers on a partnership basis for encouragement of livestock production and to supply needed workstock for farming operations.

A shipload of 260 water buffalo has been loaded at Calcutta and 600 cows also are to be exported. Normally cattle exports from India are not permitted, but special concessions have been granted the Philippine Republic.

In September 1954 the government of the Philippines began a program of supplying a cow or caraboa (water buffalo) to farmers without draft animals. Each farmer will acquire ownership of the animal after he has turned over 2 of its offspring to the government. The government's share in turn will be turned over to other farmers under the same conditions.

The Philippine government has banned the slaughter of useful caraboa and female cattle. However, the current shortage of beef and caraboa has made these regulations difficult to enforce. Some live cattle have been imported from Indonesia and Australia.

Plans have been made by the Philippine government to purchase small numbers of Brahman bulls; Santa Gertrudis bulls and heifers; Brown Swiss heifers; and Hampshire, Poland China, and Duroc boars in the United States for livestock improvement.

Import restrictions imposed by the Philippine government and competition from New Zealand and Australia prevents an increase in exports of United States beef products to the Philippines.

HOG NUMBERS REACH NEW HIGH IN SWITZERLAND; BEEF CONTINUES SHORT

Hog numbers in Switzerland continued to increase and established a new record high this April, but cattle numbers declined slightly according to a sample census in selected communities. Cattle slaughter is not filling the requirements of the country. (Cont'd. next page.)

Cattle numbers in Switzerland declined less than 1 percent during the year. The 1.6 million head on farms is not large enough to cover the beef requirements of the country. The shortage of beef now being felt may become more severe, reflecting the decline in available supplies of cattle for slaughter. This shortage could continue through 1956. Numbers of breeding cows on farms have been well maintained, but numbers of all classes of younger cattle, except calves for breeding, have declined. Slaughter in the first 3 months of 1955 was 9 percent greater than a year earlier.

Hog numbers increased 9 percent during the year to establish a new postwar high. It is expected that slaughter of hogs this fall and winter will exceed requirements. The large number on farms will show up largely in increased slaughter during the fall and winter of 1955-56 and will coincide with the peak marketing period for calves.

RECORD HIGH PRICES PAID FOR POLLED MERINO RAMS IN AUSTRALIA

A feature of the New South Wales Royal Agricultural Society Annual Sheep Show and Sale held in Sydney June 2-8 was the high prices paid for polled (hornless) Merino rams. The top price paid for a hornless Merino ram at this sale was equivalent to \$8,200, and an average of \$1,800 was paid for 13 rams sold by a leading herd. Over-all prices for the muley stud rams were about 50 percent above 1954 prices. Breeders reported they were unable to meet the demand for the hornless rams.

The polled rams originated from good quality sports from horned flocks about 20 years ago and have been carefully selected since that time. Individuals of the hornless type now compare favorably with most of the horned Merinos. Breeders are enthusiastic over them because of fewer injuries among fighting rams and smaller losses by rams being caught in fences. Their chief advantage, however, is a marked reduction in deaths or injury caused by maggots. The wool lying beneath the horns is a good place for flies to lay eggs, and sheepmen must continuously inspect and treat their animals to avoid losses.

L A T E N E W S

Nearly \$1.2 million worth of dairy products are to be sold by Sweden to Austria, Poland, and France per agreements signed recently.

Philippine copra exports during June totaled 60,194 long tons, an increase of 10 percent from exports of the previous month but a decrease of 11 percent from the June 1954 tonnage. The distribution was as follows: United States--26,652 tons; Europe--23,980; South America--8,162; and other countries--1,400 tons. June coconut oil shipments at 7,615 tons were up 57 percent from May exports and 73 percent from June 1954. The total quantity was sent to the United States. The copra export price as of mid-July was \$157.50 c.i.f. Pacific. Additional details will be presented in the next issue of Foreign Crops and Markets.

U. S. COTTON EXPORTS STILL DECLINING

(See table, p. 72.) Exports of cotton from the United States during the period August 1, 1954; through May 1955, of 3,230,000 bales of 500 pounds (3,107,000 running bales) were only 5,000 bales higher than the volume exported during the comparable period for the previous season. When compared with last season it is found exports started to decline in February 1955 and have been falling off ever since.

The decline in United States cotton exports is attributed to fear by our foreign customers that there might be a substantial break in prices of United States cotton beginning with the new cotton season. In addition, exotic cotton, beginning with March 1955, has been offered at prices below similar quality United States cotton. Under such conditions foreign importers, spinners, weavers, and converters have been reducing their stocks to a bare working minimum.

Cotton stocks in importing countries probably will continue to be kept to the minimum as long as price uncertainty for the 1955-56 U. S. crop continues. When this uncertainty is relieved, exports of United States cotton are expected to pick up, as "pipelines" of U. S. cotton to foreign markets are at an unusually low level. --By Francis H. Whitaker.

CURRENT IMPORTS OF COTTON BY SPECIFIED COUNTRIES

The table on page 73 gives some indication of the extent to which United States cotton is sharing in the total cotton import trade of foreign countries for which current monthly import data are available.

MEXICO REDUCES COTTON EXPORT TAX SLIGHTLY

Mexico has reduced the official price of cotton on which the 22 percent ad valorem export tax rate is based from 6.80 to 6.55 pesos per kilo; effective July 8, 1955. This reduction represents a cut in the export tax from 5.54 U. S. cents per pound to 5.34 cents. No change was made in the ad valorem rate, although cotton growers had requested such a reduction.

UNITED STATES: Exports of cotton by countries of destination;
averages 1935-39 and 1945-49; crop years 1952-53 and 1953-54;
August-May 1953-54 and 1954-55

Country of destination	(Equivalent bales of 500 pounds gross)						
	Crop year beginning August 1						
	Averages		1952	1953	August - May		
	1935-39	1945-49			1953-54	1954-55	
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	
	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales	
Austria.....	0:1/	36:	47:	42:	33:	14	
Belgium-Luxembourg....	169:	131:	73:	68:	62:	65	
Czechoslovakia.....	65:	57:	0:	0:	0:	0	
Denmark.....	33:	14:	34:	23:	20:	20	
Finland.....	35:	21:	4:	10:	10:	10	
France.....	662:	575:	507:	475:	395:	383	
Germany.....	511:	340:	241:	389:	342:	335	
Italy.....	442:	489:	272:	269:	195:	221	
Netherlands.....	107:	131:	79:	104:	93:	92	
Norway.....	17:	7:	11:	14:	12:	12	
Poland & Danzig.....	180:	69:	0:	0:	0:	0	
Portugal.....	36:	2/	1:	0:	0:	2/	
Spain.....	108:	69:	77:	167:	110:	109	
Sweden.....	115:	12:	36:	43:	40:	50	
Switzerland.....	11:	26:	28:	24:	22:	37	
United Kingdom.....	1,346:	488:	359:	422:	338:	399	
Yugoslavia.....	17:	47:	86:	40:	40:	86	
Other Europe.....	31:3/	33:	6:	10:	6:	10	
Total Europe.....	3,885:	2,545:	1,861:	2,100:	1,718:	1,843	
Australia.....	9:	7:	11:	45:	36:	46	
Canada.....	301:	275:	284:	237:	198:	280	
Chile.....	9:	20:	1:	27:	22:	10	
China.....	117:	401:	0:	0:	0:	0	
Colombia.....	20:	24:	35:	7:	6:	1	
Cuba.....	11:	16:	12:	20:	14:	19	
French Indochina.....	22:	6:	18:	16:	14:	0	
Formosa.....	4/	1:	107:	110:	87:	110	
India.....	52:	86:	45:	161:	142:	60	
Indonesia.....	2/	5:	17:	22:	19:	24	
Israel.....	4/	5:	14:	12:	10:	16	
Japan.....	1,142:	585:	691:	1,005:	833:	630	
Korea, Republic of....	4/ 5/	48:	41:	96:	83:	145	
Philippines, Rep. of..	2:	4:	16:	8:	5:	5	
Other countries.....	19:6/	37:	28:7/	48:	38:	41	
Total	5,589:	4,065:	3,181:	3,914:	3,225:	3,230	

1/ 4-year average. 2/ Less than 500 bales. 3/ Includes Greece 21. 4/ If any, included in "Other countries". 5/ 3-year average. 6/ Includes Hong Kong 35.
7/ Includes Ethiopia 11, French Morocco 9, and Hong Kong 9.

Compiled from records of the Bureau of the Census.

COTTON: Share of United States and other supplying countries in specified import markets

(Equivalent bales of 500 pounds gross)

Importing country	Reporting period 1954-55	Supplying country	Quantity imported		Supplying countries share of market	
			Previous year's period	Current year's period	Previous year's period	Current year's period
			1,000 bales	1,000 bales	Percent	Percent
Belgium.....	Aug.-April	United States	74	77	20	21
		Mexico	52	75	14	20
		Belgian Congo	57	60	16	16
		Total 1/	361	369		
France.....	Aug.-May	United States	384	381	33	33
		Egypt	210	148	18	13
		Total 1/	1,161	1,157		
Germany.....	Aug.-April	United States	257	339	26	35
		Brazil	161	159	17	16
		Mexico	82	124	8	13
		Total 1/	972	971		
Italy.....	Aug.-Feb.	United States	121	147	32	40
		Turkey	56	11	15	3
		Total 1/	373	363		
Netherlands....	Aug.-Mar.	United States	52	102	23	28
		Mexico	66	58	29	16
		Total 1/	226	247		
Spain.....	Aug.-May	United States	133	113	53	54
		Brazil	39	56	16	27
		Total 1/	251	211		
Switzerland....	Aug.-April	United States	25	49	17	33
		Peru	20	25	14	17
		Total 1/	145	147		
United Kingdom..	Aug.-Feb.	United States	193	357	21	39
		Sudan	144	73	16	8
		Total 1/	921	914		
Canada.....	Aug.-Apr.	United States	167	252	81	95
		Total 1/	205	265		
Hong Kong.....	Aug.-Feb.	United States	1	7	1	5
		Brazil	25	44	22	34
		Pakistan	68	36	60	28
		Total 1/	113	128		
India.....	Aug.-Mar.	United States	24	79	9	30
		Br. East Africa	55	68	20	26
		Egypt	154	77	57	30
		Total 1/	272	261		
Japan.....	Aug.-May	United States	736	651	36	38
		Pakistan	275	150	13	9
		Total 1/	2,040	1,716		

1/ Includes imports from sources not listed.

NETHERLANDS INCREASES COTTON IMPORTS FROM U. S.

Increased cotton imports by the Netherlands from the United States during the January-March 1955 quarter have brought total imports from that source to 102,000 bales (500 pounds gross) for the 8-month period, August-March 1954-55, or nearly twice the quantity of 52,000 bales imported in the comparable period of 1953-54, according to W. A. Luykx, Agricultural Analyst, and T. Micsky, American Embassy, The Hague.

Imports from all sources amounted to 247,000 bales in August-March 1954-55 or 9 percent higher than imports of 226,000 bales in August-March 1953-54. Other major sources of the Netherlands cotton supply during the last 2 years have been Mexico, the Belgian Congo, Egypt, Peru, Argentina, and Brazil.

NETHERLANDS: Imports of cotton from major countries of origin; average 1935-39; crops years 1951-53; August-March 1953-54 and 1954-55

(Equivalent bales of 500 pounds gross)						
Country of origin	Year beginning August 1				August-March	
	Average	1951	1952	1953	1953-54	1954-55
	: 1935-39 1/					
	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000
	: bales	: bales	: bales	: bales	: bales	: bales
Argentina.....	7	0	5	16	16	5
Belgian Congo.....	28	27	50	40	24	25
Brazil.....	23	12	0	14	9	10
Egypt.....	5	7	21	22	13	13
India and Pakistan.....	39	3	20	13	9	6
Mexico.....	2/	1	12	66	66	58
Peru.....	9	3	16	15	10	9
United States.....	96	185	133	113	52	102
Other countries.....	28	6	3/ 39	4/ 39	27	19
Total	235	244	296	338	226	247

1/Calendar years. 2/ Less than 500 bales. 3/ Includes 13,000 bales from British East Africa. 4/ Burma 8,000 bales, Nicaragua 7,000 and Turkey 5,000.

Compiled from Jaarstatistiek van den in, uit-en Doorvoer; Nederland
Maandstatistiek van den in, uit-en Doorvoer; and official reports.

Cotton trade was reportedly active and the industry continued operations at full capacity. Cotton mill stocks on March 31, 1955, were reported at 94,000 bales, up 40 percent from stocks of 67,000 bales held at the beginning of the quarter, and 19 percent higher than stocks of 79,000 bales on July 19, 1954, both figures reflecting the improved stock position resulting from the increase in imports.

Production of cotton yarn from November 1954 through February 1955 averaged about 6,000 metric tons per month, and consumption of yarn averaged 6,500 tons per month. Cotton consumption during the January-March 1955 quarter averaged about 28,000 bales per month, slightly higher than the 27,000-bale average for the 3 months August-March 1954-55.

COTTON EXPORTS AUTHORIZED UNDER PUBLIC LAW 480 PROGRAMS

Purchase authorizations representing approximately \$125 million and about 633,000 bales of cotton (500 pounds gross), issued up to July 7, 1955, will implement the 18 agreements previously signed with various countries for exportation of cotton under provisions of Title I (sales for foreign currency) of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954 (Public Law 480, 83rd Congress).

Quantities included in these totals are as follows:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Funds authorized (1,000 dollars)</u>	<u>Cotton to be exported (bales)</u>	<u>Final delivery date</u>
Yugoslavia	9,600	54,000	6-30-55
Israel	1,125	6,000	7-31-55
Spain	7,750	38,750	10-31-55
Finland	2,900	15,000	"
Italy	36,600	183,000	"
Japan	35,000	175,000	"
Austria	510	2,500	12-31-55
Korea	9,400	47,000	"
Pakistan-Hong Kong	1,000	5,000	12-15-55
Pakistan-United Kingdom	5,200	26,000	"
Pakistan-Lebanon	600	3,000	12-31-55
Pakistan-Japan	9,700	48,500	"
Pakistan-Germany	1,500	7,500	"
Pakistan-Belgium	500	2,500	"
Pakistan-France	840	4,200	"
Pakistan-Italy	1,400	7,000	"
Pakistan-Switzerland	1,000	5,000	1-15-56
Pakistan-Netherlands	700	3,500	"
Total	125,325	633,450	

Cotton authorized for Pakistan is to be exchanged under tripartite agreements with 10 countries listed above, for processing into cloth and yarn.

An agreement has also been signed with Colombia which will provide for the export of about 8,200 bales of cotton, with detailed arrangements for the transaction to be announced later.

SLIGHT INCREASE IN BELGIAN
COTTON IMPORTS OVER LAST YEAR

Belgium's cotton imports during the first 9 months (August-April) of the 1954-55 marketing year amounted to 369,000 bales (500 pounds gross), increasing only 2 percent over imports of 361,000 bales in the same months of 1953-54, according to Robert L. Brown, Assistant Commercial Attache, and A. G. DePauw, American Embassy, Brussels. Imports from the United States in the current period were 77,000 bales or 21 percent of the total, as compared with 74,000 bales and 20 percent of the total a year ago. Mexico and the Belgian Congo are the other principal sources of Belgium's cotton, with smaller quantities coming from Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Peru, Egypt, and Pakistan.

BELGIUM: Imports of cotton from major countries of origin;
averages 1934-38 and 1945-49; crop years 1952-53 and 1953-54;
August-April 1953-54 and 1954-55

(Bales of 500 pounds gross)						
Country of origin	Year beginning August 1				August-April	
	Averages		1952	1953	1953-54	1954-55
	1934-38	1945-49				
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales
Argentina.....	2/ 1	3/	23	27	21	21
Belgian Congo.....	120	85	57	72	57	60
Brazil.....	26	32	3/	36	31	19
Egypt and Sudan.....	17	12	16	25	22	16
India & Pakistan....	154	48	44	22	20	13
Mexico.....	3/	2/ 25	64	54	52	75
Peru.....	8	18	30	27	21	16
Turkey.....	3/	2/ 10	2	1	1	8
United States.....	145	130	114	101	74	77
Other countries.....	35	2	27	5/ 99	62	6/ 64
Total.....	506	362	377	464	361	369

1/ Calendar years only available data. 2/ Two-year average. 3/ If any, included in other countries. 4/ Less than 500 bales. 5/ U.S.S.R. 29,000 bales. 6/ Paraguay 16,000 bales; Guatemala 7,000.

Source: Bulletin Mensuel du Commerce avec les Pays Etrangers; Bulletin Mensuel du Commerce Extérieur; reports from Agricultural Attaches, and other U. S. representatives abroad.

Cotton consumption in Belgium during the February-April quarter of the 1954-55 year amounted to 111,000 bales; decreasing 4 percent from the 116,000 bales consumed in November-January; and 7 percent under the February-April quarter of 1953-54. Consumption of United States cotton, however, increased in the current period amounting to 20,000 bales or 18 percent of the total consumption; as compared with 15,000 bales and 13 percent of the total a year earlier. The decline in total consumption has reportedly continued into May 1955; with mills operating at about 75 percent of capacity.

The improvement noted in mill stocks as of January 31, 1955, has been maintained in the third quarter of the year; with stocks of 155,000 bales reported for April 30, 1955; up 26 percent from the 123,000 bales held a year earlier; and 25 percent higher than the 126,000 bales in stock on July 31, 1954. Stocks of United States cotton were 27,000 bales on April 30, 1955; 17 percent of the total; as compared with the identical quantity held a year earlier; although the proportionate share at that time was 22 percent of the total.

Production of fine cotton yarn amounted to 23,309 metric tons during the February-April 1955 period; a decrease of about 152 metric tons below the same quarter last year. The breakdown of cotton yarn production for the months of February, March, and April is presented in the following table:

Cotton yarn production in Belgium; February-April 1955

	<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Total</u>
		(metric tons)		
Fine yarn	7,727	8,629	6,953	23,309
Carded yarn	524	590	515	1,629
Extra coarse yarn	1,174	1,257	1,284	3,715
Total	9,425	10,476	8,752	28,653

Production of cotton fabrics during the months of January (6,214 metric tons), February (6,203), March (6,964) and April (6,035), 1955 was somewhat less than during corresponding months in 1954. Stocks of cotton yarn at weaving mills totaled 8,717 metric tons on April 30, 1955, as compared with 10,623 metric tons on the same date in 1954.

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PHILIPPINE COCONUT PRODUCTS
SITUATION---FIRST QUARTER 1955

Philippine production of copra, coconut oil, and desiccated coconut in terms of copra equivalent totaled 252,480 long tons during the first quarter of 1955, reports Elmer W. Hallowell, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Manila. This represents an increase of 10 percent from the first quarter of 1954, although it reflects a decline of 14 percent from production during the fourth quarter of 1954.

PHILIPPINE REPUBLIC: Copra, coconut oil, and desiccated coconut
production in copra equivalent, average 1947-51,
annual 1952-54 and January-March 1954-55

(Long tons)

	: Average :	1952 :	1953 :	1954 1/ :	January-March 1/	
	: 1947-51 :				1954 :	1955
Exports:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Copra.....	720,487	651,764	592,267	758,002	152,337	173,545
Coconut oil as copra 2/:	87,517	126,290	92,998	104,337	21,392	23,971
Desiccated coconut as	:	:	:	:	:	:
copra 3/.....	61,294	45,192	56,770	54,537	8,619	7,345
Total as copra....	869,298	823,246	742,035	916,876	182,348	204,861
Domestic utilization:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Coconut oil as copra 2/:	89,035	111,111	163,492	187,619	46,905	47,619
Total production as	:	:	:	:	:	:
Copra 4/	958,333	934,357	905,527	1,104,495	229,253	252,480

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Computed at 63 percent oil extraction rate. 3/ Computed as 83 percent of copra equivalent. 4/ Excluding coconut utilized in the making of home-made oil and native culinary preparations.

Source: Philippine trade.

Coconut production in 1955 is expected to be larger than in 1954, probably by about 10 percent. As in 1953, damage from typhoons last year was slight and the major producing areas in Luzon have not been adversely affected.

Coconut oil production during first quarter 1955 at 45,102 tons increased about 5 percent from first quarter 1954 output. Domestic utilization of oil in 1955 is forecast by the trade to be 3 to 5 percent larger than in 1954. The increasing output by Philippine manufacturers of coconut oil products is the basis of this estimate.

Desiccated coconut production for the period under review amounted to 6,096 tons (7,345 tons copra equivalent basis) or 15 percent lower than the output during the same period last year. The decline reflected the decrease in demand from the United States. While demand was not expected to increase during the second quarter, production was nevertheless expected to be good.

Exports of copra in the first quarter amounted to 173,545 tons, an increase of 14 percent from the comparable period of 1954. The United States took 42 percent and Europe 43 percent. Exports to South American markets, especially Colombia, increased significantly. Coconut oil exports, amounting to 15,102 tons, increased 12 percent from the same period of the previous year. Except for 300 tons shipped to Cuba all oil exports came to the United States. All desiccated coconut produced in the Philippines is exported, mostly to the United States.

Copra export prices which averaged \$174.85 per short ton c.i.f. Pacific Coast in January 1955 (\$217.20 in January 1954) declined to \$171.60 in February (204.00 in February 1954) and to \$159.30 in March (\$178.50--March 1954). The average export price during the first quarter of 1955 was \$168.60 per short ton compared with \$199.90 for the same period in 1954. Coconut oil export prices per pound f.o.b. tank cars Pacific Coast averaged \$.12 5/8 in January, \$12 1/2 in February, and \$.11 5/8 in March.

Low-priced, distress sales of copra to Europe which began in January 1955 and continued throughout February were largely responsible for depressing world copra prices. During the shipping-space shortage in the Philippines in December 1954 and January 1955, exporters over-committed themselves for February shipping space without having made covering sales. The European market, therefore, was flooded with offerings of distressed copra, either afloat or firmly committed for nearby shipment, and European buyers withdrew to lower price levels. Throughout February, European business was done at prices below levels prevailing in the Philippines and in the United States. Price declines continued through March, but the European market showed signs of improved buying interest during the last half of March. European trading in afloat copra came to an end, and with low Philippine copra exports in March, it appears that the temporary oversupply in the European market finally was absorbed.

INDIAN INSTITUTE EVOLVES

MULTI-PURPOSE FOOD FROM OILSEED CAKES

A mixture of peanut, sesame, and soybean cakes is the basis for a multi-purpose human food developed by the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, Mysore State, according to the American Consulate General, Madras. Evolved after 4 years of research the food, cheaper than rice, will be a useful supplement to a typical rice diet. Fortified with calcium, iron, and vitamins A, D, and B-complex, the new food was tried on rats for 2 generations with no adverse effects with regard to the general health and reproduction of the animals.

Feeding trials were conducted also on a number of children and the clinical and other observations reportedly have indicated that the new processed food compared favorably with the multi-purpose food distributed by the Meals for Millions Foundation in the United States. (Cont'd. next page.)

According to Professor Giri of the Institute, a report on the investigation of the new food sent to the above Foundation has elicited favorable comments and the Foundation has sanctioned a grant to the Institute for producing one ton of the new food for conducting field trials in different centers in India and with a view to eliciting an opinion on the acceptability of the new food.

The Institute claimed that 2 ounces of the new food constitutes one-third of the total daily adult food requirement.

The Institute has proposed further trials on the new food particularly with regard to its keeping quality in collaboration with the Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore.

INDIA EXTENDS FREE LICENSING PERIOD FOR LINSEED AND CASTOR OIL

The Government of India has extended the period of free export licensing of linseed oil and castor oil until December 31, 1955, reports the American Embassy, New Delhi. Formerly the export of linseed oil was to be licensed freely only until June 30 and castor oil until August 31.

About 28,000 to 29,000 short tons of linseed oil were exported from India during the first 5 months of 1955, according to trade sources. While data on the over-all exports of castor oil for the period are not yet available to this Service, shipments from Bombay alone reportedly totaled 18,000 tons as of May 31. During 1954 India exported about 4,320 tons of linseed oil and 31,000 tons of castor oil.

INDIA AUTHORIZES ADDITIONAL EXPORTS OF COTTONSEED OILCAKES; NEW QUOTA FOR COCONUT OILCAKE

The Government of India on May 21 announced that an additional export quota of 10,000 long tons (11,200 short tons) of cottonseed oilcakes, decorticated and undecorticated, would be permitted for all shippers until August 31, 1955, according to the American Embassy, New Delhi. As an incentive for export of decorticated cottonseed oilcakes, manufacturers of this variety will be granted free license for export until August 31. Moreover, a limited quota of coconut oilcake for export to authorized destinations up to July 31, 1955, also was announced.

This is the second export allotment of cottonseed oilcake announced thus far in 1955. The first allotment of 10,000 tons has been exhausted. The export of coconut oilcake from India, however, had been prohibited previously.

Export taxes on decorticated and undecorticated cottonseed oilcakes recently were reduced from 100 rupees and 50 rupees per long ton (\$18.75 and \$9.38 per short ton), respectively, to a level of 30 rupees per ton (\$5.62).

COLOMBIA REGULATES IMPORTS OF CERTAIN FATS AND OILS

Colombia's Ministry of Development has established through official resolution certain conditions for the importation of various fats and oils and other raw materials, reports W. Beal, American Embassy, Bogota. The Resolution, No. 269 of April 26, 1955, was published in ANDI Bulletin No. 894 of May 25. The fats and oils affected by the Resolution and the conditions for import are as follows:

Copra: Permits to import copra will be granted only to manufacturers of food and other products registered with the Ministry of Development to the extent that the manufacturers can show the need for such imports.

Hydrogenated Fats and Oils: Imports by manufacturers of edible oils and fats will be granted in essential quantities to supplement domestic supplies. Imports will be permitted only of fats and oils having a melting point between 59 and 63 degrees Centigrade.

Fatty Acids: Imports will be authorized only to soap factories or other industries registered in the Ministry in accordance with their necessities.

Tallows, Palm and Coconut Oils: Imports of these products will be permitted only when they are denatured and imported in drums for soap manufacture or other industrial use by firms registered with the Ministry. The Ministry is to issue standards of denaturalization for these products.

CORRECTION--In the article entitled "Belgian Congo Vegetable Oil Exports Up in 1954," published in Foreign Crops and Markets, June 6, 1955, the figures shown as palm kernel oil production estimates (214,445 and 197,889 tons for 1954 and 1953, respectively) should have appeared as palm oil production estimates. The 174,164-ton figure shown as palm oil production in 1953 should have been 197,889. The 1954 palm kernel oil export figure should have been 28,115 tons instead of 28,109 tons.

PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO U. S. FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL TRADE

Issued recently and available free upon request
to the Foreign Agricultural Service, U. S.
Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

The Tobacco Trade of Hong Kong. Foreign Ag. Circ. FT-35-55
Mediterranean Basin Olive Oil Production Exceeds Early Expectations.

Foreign Ag. Circ. FFO-14-55

Cotton Production and Pricing Policies of Foreign Producing Countries.
Foreign Ag. Circ. FC-7-55

1955 Brazil Nut Market Active. Foreign Ag. Circ. FN-6-55.

(Additional recent FAS publications listed bottom of next page.)

AUSTRALIAN WOOL PRODUCTION
OFFICIAL ESTIMATE FOR 1955-56

The Australian Government officially forecast the 1955-56 Australian wool clip at an all time record of 1,331 million pounds and revised the 1954-55 estimated output upward to 1,288 million pounds. The 1955-56 forecast includes estimates of 1,219 million pounds of shorn wool, 38.5 million pulled wool and 38.5 million for export on skins.

An earlier forecast by the Foreign Agricultural Service estimated the 1955-56 Australian output at 1,315 million pounds (see Foreign Crops and Markets June 20, 1955).

URUGUAY CONSIDERING
GRASS AND LEGUME SEED PURCHASE

Uruguay is interested in purchasing grass and legume seeds for a forage improvement program; according to Dale Farringer, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Montevideo.

NEW ZEALAND SEED MARKET
CONTINUES FIRM

In spite of the absence of large overseas orders, the New Zealand seed market continues firm; according to Eugene T. Ransom, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Wellington. The firmness is believed to result from the realization that supplies are not greatly in excess of New Zealand and Australian requirements.

The absence of large overseas purchasing is ascribed to the present level of New Zealand prices. European buyers are reported to be awaiting outcome of the "home" harvest before doing other than small lot buying.

Recent publications (Cont'd. from bottom preceding page):

Tobacco Trade of Indochina (Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia). Foreign Ag. Circ. FT-36-55

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